

God's Measure of Eternity

2 Corinthians 5:9-10, 1 Corinthians 2:9, 2 Corinthians 4:17, 2 Peter 3:8-9, Matthew 6:21, Revelation 3:11

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Today we begin a new series titled, *"How God Measures Our Life."* What we need to understand is that everything God measures is for eternity.

When God measures our life, He'll measure how we lived for Him and how much we sought His kingdom.

He'll measure our heart and our desire to reach the destinations of greatness for eternity that He has personally designed for us to reach.

God will measure our lives by our words, our thoughts, our prayers, our fear of God, our obedience to His word, our readiness for His return, and how well we run our race.

God uses these things to measure our life for the great rewards and treasures of heaven.

It's my prayer that you'll take to heart what you hear and apply these truths to your life, so you're ready for that day of judgement when God measures your life for eternity.

2 Corinthians 5:9-10, *"So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad."*

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Not only does God love us unconditionally, not only is He building us an eternal home, but God desires to reward us. God wants to open the treasure vault of heaven and completely empty it out for us.

God wants our life in eternity to be full of joy, delight, and never-ending surprises. What God has in store for us is so amazing that it can't be calculated or measured by any earthly standard.

1 Corinthians 2:9, *“However, as it is written: “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived” the things God has prepared for those who love him.”*

We must never forget that when God measures our life, and He will measure our life, it'll be for eternity and eternal rewards of heaven.

One of the great truths about how God measures our lives for eternity is that we mustn't allow the trials and disappointments of this world to keep us from reaching our divine destination.

We mustn't allow persecution and the suffering we encounter in this world keep us from holding onto Jesus Christ and His kingdom of glory.

Consider this, our greatest trials on earth can never be compared to the glory of what God has in store for us in heaven.

When God measures our life for eternity, He'll measure the strength of our faith to overcome the world and its trials and troubles by staying focused on Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:17, *“For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.”*

When God measures our faithfulness to overcome trials, He'll reward us with rewards so amazing, so fulfilling, and so satisfying, they'll far surpass our afflictions and sufferings.

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I cannot emphasize strongly enough that God will one day measure our life. God is a God Who measures. He is a God Who is precise and perfect in all He does.

He knows the exact number of stars that are scattered across the heavens and calls each of them by name.

His measure is so perfect and extensive that He knows the exact dimensions of eternity that stretches from one end to the other.

His measure is so precise that He knows the exact number of every grain of sand that stretches from shore to shore across the vast oceans of the world.

The measure of God's personal love for us is so great, that He has numbered the hairs on our head.

In Revelation 21, God even recorded the exact dimensions of the New Jerusalem which will soon be our home.

Whether we realize it or not, God will measure every single life for eternity.

God will measure those who reject Him and hate Him for judgment, but for those who love Him, He will measure for great and unimaginable rewards.

That's why our suffering and what we do in our love for Him is far more important than we can imagine.

1 Corinthians 15:58, *“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”*

The work we do for the Lord, no matter how small, is never lost or forgotten. Nothing we do in our love for the Lord is ever done in vain. God never forgets what we’ve done for Him.

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In fact, God’s ability to measure is so vast that the Bible tells us that He has a record of every thought, word, and deed of every person who has ever lived.

He has a complete and total record of our entire life from beginning to end. God’s record of our life is more extensive than we can ever dream.

Have you ever thought about the kinds of things God has recorded about you that He’ll use to measure your life?

As the judge of all the earth:

- He knows every aspect of our lives... Romans 14:10-12; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10
- He knows our every word... Matthew 12:36-37
- He knows our deepest thoughts and secrets... Hebrews 4:12
- He knows our every prayer of faith... Revelation 5:8
- He knows the depth of our love for Him... 2 Corinthians 2:9
- He knows every moment when we reached out to help others... Matthew 25:34-40

These are just a few of the many things God has included in His heavenly records. We must never forget that our God is an all-knowing and all-seeing God.

For the sinner, that's a terrifying thought because God knows and has recorded every sinful act, evil word, and moment of wickedness for the day of judgment.

The only way a sinner can escape this terrible judgment is to give their life to Jesus Christ and repent of their sins.

But for the Christian this is a wonderful thought, because God's keeping an accurate record of our life.

Why? Because He plans to reward us for every prayer, act of faith, and kind deed we ever thought, spoke, or did.

We may forget the deeds we've done, but God never forgets our smallest deed of faith and obedience.

There's a story of Stephen Grellet who, close to 200 years ago, while in prayer, was strongly led by the Spirit of God to go into the backwoods of Pennsylvania to a logging camp and preach.

He felt such a compelling power of the Holy Spirit upon him to do this, that he immediately obeyed. Now that sounds simple, doesn't it? Just go out to the camp and get a crowd together and preach.

Yet, when he arrived at the logging camp, he found no one there, and only one building was still standing.

However, he was so sure God had sent him to this specific place that he went into the empty building and preached with all his heart to the bare walls the sermon God had placed on his heart.

As he preached, he felt the fire of God upon him. When he finished, he had a closing prayer, then he left and returned home. In the eyes of the world this would appear to be a stupid act.

Stephen Grellet never understood why God wanted him to preach in that empty building. Many years later as he walked across London Bridge in England, a man ran up to him and grasped his arm and said, *“After all these years I have finally found you.”*

Stephen looked at the man and said, *“Sir, I think you have me confused with someone else.”*

The man said, *“No, I’m don’t. I would know your face anywhere. Didn’t you once preach many years ago in an empty shack at a logging camp in the backwoods of America?”*

Stephen said, *“Yes I did, but no one was there.”* The man said, *“I was the foreman in charge of the loggers and when we moved to a new location, I realized that I had left my tools behind.*

When I returned to get them, I heard a voice from one of the buildings. I looked through a crack between the logs and saw you preaching.

You never saw me, because I was too ashamed to come forward, but God so touched my heart that day that I repented of my sins, became a Christian and began reading the Bible.

Then I began to lead my men to Christ. Your sermon has led at least a thousand people to Christ and three of them have become pastors!”

Stephen Grellet didn’t know what God had done that day. He simply obeyed God, and to this day, he’s still reaping the rewards of his obedience.

One day, God will measure how we used our prayers, our finances, and our obedience to further His kingdom.

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Which brings us to this powerful point: It's imperative that we plan for eternity. Our life on earth is the tiniest part of our existence.

Even if we live to be 100, life is still short. No matter the length of our life, we're destined for eternity. From the moment we are born, we'll never cease to exist. We'll spend eternity somewhere.

My point is this. For each day we spend on earth, we'll reap billions and billions of future years.

2 Peter 3:8, "But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day."

The value of one single day in our life is so great that it can only be measured by eternity. Just one single day of our life has the power to affect a thousand years in eternity and beyond.

Don't forget that our life is more than days, weeks, months, and years. God's perspective on how we live is very different from the world's perspective.

God will measure our life, not by the years we lived, but by what we did in those years for His kingdom and glory.

The greatest life, as measured by God, isn't the one who has lived the longest, or was the busiest, or the most famous. God doesn't measure by riches, popularity, fame, or achievements.

Some of the world's richest and most famous people have never lived one day for God's kingdom.

The greatest life, as measured by God, is the one which was most faithful to honor Him.

When God told Samuel to anoint a new king of Israel, he had no idea who it would be. Samuel just obeyed and went to the home of Jesse to anoint one of his sons as the new king.

If you remember, Jesse's oldest son, Eliab, stood before Samuel, and when Samuel saw his size and strength, he said to himself, *"Surely the Lord's anointed is before Him."* That's when God reprimanded Samuel.

1 Samuel 16:7, *"Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."*

God's standard of measure is far different than the world's, which is why Jesus said in Matthew 6:21, *"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

When God measures our life for eternity, He'll begin by measuring what's in our heart. Because whatever's in our heart will determine the true measure of our life.

That's why we must live wisely and invest our life in the things of God.

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Conclusion

In closing, the best way to prepare for eternity is to follow Paul's advice in Philippians 1:21, *"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."*

We must understand that one day God **will** measure our life for eternity.

So, don't let anyone or anything take away your crowns and rewards. Don't lose your eternal rewards over trivial matters that have no eternal value.

Very soon, the rapture of the church will take place, and in that instant, we'll be in the eternal presence of Jesus.

In Revelation 3:11, Jesus said, *"I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown."*

I'm telling you, time is very short, and now is the time to prepare for that day. Now is the time to be ready for His coming, for He **is** coming!

Eternity is near, and now is the time to live for Jesus Christ and His Kingdom. Are you prepared for the day when God will measure your life?

Jesus reminds us in Revelation 22:12, *"Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done."*